

STRANGE RADIOS MAY ORIGINATE ON VENUS

Mars Impossible Starting Point for Messages, Says Smithsonian Scientist.

TOO COLD FOR LIFE THERE

Other Planets Nearer and Warmer, Declares Dr. C. B. Abbot.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Thursday (by the Associated Press).—If wireless messages are being received on the earth from some other planet, as suggested by William Marconi, Mars is not sending the signals, but most probably Venus, says Dr. C. B. Abbot, director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Abbot made no claim that the mysterious wireless signals do come from another planet, but says if they do, Mars is eliminated as a possibility because known conditions on that planet probably would not permit the existence of any form of living creature.

"In the first place," says Dr. Abbot, "on account of the greater distance, nearly two and one-half times less radiation from the sun reaches Mars than reaches the earth. It is probably nearly one hundred per cent colder on the average on that distant planet than on the earth. Knowing what low temperatures occur on the earth in the course of the winter season, it readily will be realized what one hundred degrees colder would mean. In the second place, even if any form of life could withstand that degree of cold, it is definitely known by the investigations of Director Campbell, of Lick Observatory, that there is practically no water-vapor in the atmosphere surrounding Mars, which fact crosses out the possibility of that planet supporting any vegetation or other form of food for living creatures.

"The polar caps which are seen on Mars may be either hoar frost from the minute traces of water vapor in the Martian atmosphere or, which is quite as probable, frozen carbonic acid gas. The so-called 'canals' of Mars are non-existent, except as indefinite markings, according to such telescopic observers as Barnard, Hale and Herschel, who have observed with great telescopes under well high perfect conditions.

"But, it is objected, there may be other strange forms of beings which need no water or vegetation or heat. This is also reduced to impossibility by the fact that all living things are made up largely of different compounds of carbon. While the spectrum shows that there is carbon on all heavenly bodies, the chemical combinations of this element, such as are required for life, mostly require temperatures above freezing to prevent rigidity. So the extremely low temperatures on Mars, probably never higher than zero, would not allow the carbon compounds to exist in a condition suitable for originating life.

"The planet Venus, on the other hand, shows every condition necessary for maintaining life. It is nearly the same size as the earth and is even nearer the sun than the earth is. This would apparently make the climate considerably hotter on Venus except for the fact that the atmosphere surrounding Venus is continually cloudy. This universal cloudiness, by reflecting the radiation from the sun, reduces the temperature to about the same range as that experienced here on the earth. This cloudiness also shows sufficient amount of water vapor to support vegetation and higher forms of life.

"As regards the possibility of receiving wireless messages from another planet, Venus at its nearest approach to the earth is 25,000,000 miles away, whereas Mars is at least 50,000,000.

"From these considerations, it may be concluded that if any planet is trying to signal our earth, it is Venus and not Mars. It can be definitely proved that Mars is unsuited for maintaining any form of life, while, with the conditions prevailing there, there is every reason to believe on Venus, there is every reason to believe that that planet may be populated by

SENATE VOTES AGAINST AIR DIRECTOR IN CABINET

WASHINGTON, D. C., Thursday.—The new Independent Air Department bill suffered its first serious alteration in the Senate today, when the proposal to make the director of the service a Cabinet officer was eliminated on motion of Senator Smoot, Republican, of Utah. A second amendment by the Utah Senator, reducing the director's salary from \$12,000 to \$8,000 a year, failed of action for lack of a quorum.

Sharp opposition to the bill developed during the debate. Senator Borah, Republican, of Idaho, contended it would increase air service expenditures and Senator Gerry, Democrat, of Rhode Island, asserted it would foster red tape, while Chairman Wadsworth, of the Military Committee, which reported the measure, argued that it would increase efficiency and cut expenditures from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 a year on the separate air services.

U. S. Steel Awards 10 Per Cent More Pay

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that date the company granted an increase of 10 per cent; 13.6 per cent on May 1; 10 per cent on December 15; nine per cent on May 1, 1917; 10 per cent on October 1; 15 per cent on April 16, 1918, and 10.5 per cent on August 1. On October 1, 1918, the eight hour day was adopted, giving an automatic pay increase of 10 per cent to men who formerly had worked ten hours.

The corporation's action is considered in line with the demand made by the strike called by the unions on September 22 last. United States Steel and other manufacturers refused to be coerced into granting the demands of the workers, but promised that the latter would receive increases if the trade situation warranted. The strike virtually was broken.

PUERTO RICO SUGAR WORKERS GRANTED ADVANCE IN WAGES

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Thursday.—Publication of a letter sent to Acting Governor José A. Benítez by Peter J. Brady and Anthony McAndrew, representatives of the American Federation of Labor, declaring labor conditions such as to make Puerto Rico "a living graveyard," is causing much discussion throughout the island. Many demands for increased wages and cessation of work where the men's demands are not met have followed the giving out of the letter.

Many of the sugar operators, at a meeting with the Acting Governor on Tuesday, agreed to advance wages thirty to fifty per cent, with \$1 to \$1.50 per day as the minimum wage.

SLAYER ELECTROCUTED IN SING SING.



GORDON FAWCETT HAMBY.

HAMBY LAUGHS AS HE GOES TO DEATH IN CHAIR

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Hamby, as he requested that a more cheerful death watchman be substituted.

Refuses to Talk on Religion.

Warden Lawes had charge of all arrangements for the execution. Until the last Hamby declined to accept spiritual consolation from either the Rev. Dr. A. E. Peterson or the Rev. Father William E. Cashin, the chaplain, but he talked to them on topics other than religion. He told the attendants he did not desire a clergyman to comfort him or accompany him on the death march to the chair.

Despatches Three Letters.

Hamby arose in the morning, after sleeping about nine hours. Warden Lawes called upon him and the other slayers before noon and found Hamby waiting with three letters. These he asked the warden to mail after he was dead. One of them was addressed to a girl of whom Hamby had been fond. He pledged Warden Lawes to secrecy about the letters and their contents, and the warden declined to state to whom they were addressed.

Hamby had been dressed in his death suit of black and wore a black shirt. "Can't I have a light colored shirt, warden?" he pleaded. The warden said he would grant the request and instructed the guards to get him a white shirt. He also asked for a stiff, white collar, but this request was not granted.

When the death house barber shaved off the top of his head to enable the keepers to fasten down the death mask, Hamby joked about the haircut. "I thought they were going to give me a German pompadour," he exclaimed. "If they ever had I'd have turned over on the slab."

Hamby had a plentiful breakfast and ate heartily. For dinner he selected steak, mushrooms, strawberries and coffee. Frank Flannigan, another hold-up man under sentence of death, asked permission of the warden to buy Hamby a treat and it was granted. Flannigan ordered a box of cigars, a box of fancy bonbons and five dollars' worth of ice cream, which Hamby had distributed among his twenty-nine death house companions after taking his own portion.

For supper Hamby ordered lobster salad. "I need not worry about indigestion now," he explained. Warden Lawes told him that Nellie Bly, of whom he had made a confidant, had come to Governor Smith in Albany to ask a reprieve for him. Hamby made no comment. Later guards told Hamby that the Governor had refused a reprieve. Again the prisoner was disappointed.

Hamby asked the warden to have his ouija board, with which he had played so often in his cell, given to Miss Bly. He did not know she had received a pass to see his execution.

Warden Lawes told Hamby that people were curious to know what questions he had propounded to the ouija board. Hamby said he had asked it, for instance, "What is my real name? It's so long since I have used it I have forgotten it myself."

"I've forgotten, too," Hamby quoted the ouija board as answering.

Hamby said to the board:—"Do you like music?" Answer:—"Yes."

The phonograph was then rolling off a tune on a squeaky record.

"Do you like this music?" Hamby queried. The answer was:—"No, not this jazz."

Career Excited Interest.

Gordon Fawcett Hamby probably excited the interest of the public more than any other criminal of recent years. The story of his career reads like the product of the pen of a Gaboriau or a Conan Doyle. The first chapter of his amazing life began last summer when Judge Lewis L. Fawcett, of the County Court, in Brooklyn, sentenced him for the murder of De Witt C. Peal and Henry Coons, officials of the East Brooklyn Savings Bank, on the afternoon of December 23, 1918. He and an accomplice staged a hold-up at the bank and escaped with \$12,000 after slaying the two officials.

Outside the bank a crowd of 300 had gathered. Hamby and his man defied them all and under protection of their revolvers they backed down the avenue and escaped in a taxicab, whose driver they urged to greater speed by pressing the muzzle of a revolver against his head. Hamby's story of what followed until the time of his arrest was told by him after the capture.

The pair went to a hotel on Nassau avenue in Brooklyn, Hamby standing guard at a window all night with his guns ready. Next day he and his accomplice, whose name he said was Winslow, parted company. Hamby stayed in New York two weeks and then went to Washington, where he met a girl. He and the girl went to St. Paul and thence to Seattle. Then he "settled" \$3,000 on her and sent

her back East.

From Seattle, Hamby went to the Tacoma home of George P. Davis, a friend of many years' standing. He invested in an automobile and entertained Davis and his wife in princely style, with theatre visits, cabarets and automobile trips into the Rockies. Early in March occurred the event that proved fatal for Hamby. He was a Socialist and during a party at the Davis home a hot discussion arose on Socialism and Bolshevism. Hamby said Davis called him a vile name, whereupon Hamby quietly went to his room, got his revolver, returned and killed Davis.

Gave Himself Up.

Hamby left in the automobile and got lost in the mountains. His next move was typical of the daring psychology of this strange criminal. He deliberately drove to a general store owned by a one-time Klondike gambler and told him that he had killed his best friend and that he was able to kill himself. Redouan, the storekeeper, succeeded in disarming him and summoned the sheriff, who placed Hamby under arrest. He was tried and convicted of the murder of Davis and was sent to the Tacoma County Jail to await sentence.

Word reached Brooklyn authorities that Hamby had been caught. District Attorney Harry E. Lewis immediately sent Assistant District Attorney Albert C. Conway with Albert Freeman, an ex-convict of the bank, and McCullough, the chauffeur, who had driven Hamby and Wing away from the bank. They identified Hamby as the East Brooklyn Bank robber. He waived extradition and arrived in Brooklyn in June, where he made a complete confession to District Attorney Lewis. He told Lewis he had committed hold-ups in every country on the face of the globe, including Egypt, China and South America, and that he had realized approximately \$400,000 in seven or eight years of crime. He said he never tackled a job unless there was "five figures in it."

Hamby was placed on trial June 22 and was convicted three days later. He offered no defense and declared repeatedly that he wanted to "get it over with as quickly as possible." He was cool and collected then and he remained so to the moment of his death. His only request was that his name be changed in the indictment to Jay B. Allen instead of Gordon Fawcett Hamby. He declared Allen was his right name and became so averse to the Hamby surname that he refused in Sing Sing to sign it on an order which would have released funds belonging to him. Judge Fawcett refused to change the name unless Hamby offered proof that Allen was his real name.

So far as District Attorney Lewis was able to learn Hamby was born in 1893, in Alberta, Canada, and that when he was eight years old his mother and father separated. He went to live with an aunt, but went forth on "his own hook" when fourteen. He told the District Attorney he had been educated in an Eastern college, whether in Canada or this country he would not say.

Lacked Idea of Self-Preservation.

The most prominent of Hamby's eccentricities was his absolute lack of the foremost instinct of every normal man—that of self-preservation. Where other prisoners in his plight frantically would have availed themselves of every means to obtain an extension of life, he calmly awaited death, announcing that he would welcome it. He was against all efforts to save his life, and told the prison officers he had gone to Sing Sing to commit "legal suicide."

Hamby's view of his own life was that he had "funked." He would have none of the clergyman at Sing Sing, but spent his time playing with a ouija board. "It is nothing for me to die because I am coming back," Hamby declared. "It may take a few years and they may take several thousand years, but time does not count. Being brought into this world is like being placed in a class of small children, with each trying to compete with the other. Some of us are successful, some not. As for myself, I have 'funked'."

Allen examined Hamby on more than one occasion and they all agreed that he was sane.

One of his traits that forced admiration of a sort was his steady refusal to "squeal" on his pals. He was always wary of giving any information that would implicate those who had been working with him. When Hamby went to Sing Sing some one asked him what his remaining interest in life was. He said that it would be to "spend the time from now until I go to the electric chair in smoking, reading and making myself comfortable." And he adhered to this philosophy to the end.

Judge Fawcett said that Hamby was the "worst" criminal of six thousand who had come before him during his career on the bench.

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BRAINARD FAILS TO GET SENTENCE STAY

Justice Platzek Denies Certificate of Reasonable Doubt to Publisher of "Madeline."

APPLICATION PREMATURE

Counsel for Convicted Man Declares Enemies Conspire to Put Him in the Penitentiary.

Justice Platzek in the Supreme Court yesterday denied an application for a certificate of reasonable doubt to Clinton T. Brainard, secretary of the Extraordinary Grand Jury and president of Harper & Brothers, which would have the effect of staying his conviction last week of permitting the circulation of "Madeline," an alleged obscene book.

Without taking up the merits of the case, Justice Platzek agreed that the application was premature and suggested that it be renewed after Mr. Brainard is sentenced in Special Sessions today. This view was in accord with the argument of Robert L. Johnstone, Assistant District Attorney, who opposed granting a certificate until the case had reached a "finality." Mr. Johnstone said the application could not be entertained, under the code of criminal procedure, until after sentence had been passed.

While Francis M. Scott, formerly Justice of the Appellate Division, who appeared for Mr. Brainard, was not averse to this postponement on the usual grounds, he said there were elements present in the prosecution of the publisher which warranted making an immediate appeal for a stay to the courts.

In his opinion the charge against him was begun as a back fire against the Admiralty Grand Jury, of which he was secretary," said Judge Scott. "We believe an attempt will be made to put him behind the bars, if only for one day. The

men who instigated this charge hope they can have him sent to the penitentiary, and if they can only get him behind the bars for one day they will consider their object accomplished."

Justice Platzek then remarked that a superior court could not pass upon the action of a lower court until after the case reached its final stage, with the imposition of sentence. He said there was nothing to prevent an application for a certificate when that procedure was passed.

Thereupon Judge Scott said it was customary to give the District Attorney two days' notice of an application for a certificate of reasonable doubt, and that it was with the idea of saving Mr. Brainard from spending those two days in jail that the present appeal was made. He announced positively that an appeal would be taken by Mr. Brainard from his conviction.

Mexicans to Free Stranded Aviators

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Thursday.—Lieutenants E. F. Davis and G. E. Grimes, American army aviators, who yesterday made a forced landing near Guerrero, Mexico, are not held prisoners by Mexicans and probably will fly back to the United States territory today, it was announced at Fort Brown shortly before noon.

Guerrero is about thirty miles south of Zapata, Texas, and about 140 miles up the Rio Grande from Matamoros, the Mexican city opposite Brownsville. Captain W. B. Bradford, assistant district adjutant, went to Matamoros today to arrange with the Mexican officials to set gasoline and oil to the aviators. Captain Bradford said the aviators are not prisoners, and when "the usual preliminaries" have been disposed of "their return to the American side will be facilitated."

MEXICAN HIGHWAYMEN ROB AMERICAN MINING OFFICIAL

EL PASO, Texas, Thursday.—James Clegg, an American superintendent of the Manta Mining Company at Euaila, Mexico, was held up and robbed of the mine pay roll of several hundred dollars Saturday night, while proceeding to the mine from Chihuahua City, according to a report received here today.

FLETCHER URGED POLICY IN MEXICO

G. A. Chamberlain Says Diplomatist Resigned in Disgust at U. S. Attitude.

WANTS TO KNOW TRUTH

Letter Giving Causes of Resignation Should Be Published, He Declared.

The resignation of Henry P. Fletcher as United States Ambassador to Mexico City was due to his disapproval of the Washington administration's policy, or rather lack of policy, in Mexico. This was the belief expressed yesterday by George Agnew Chamberlain, who as United States Consul General at Mexico City was Mr. Fletcher's associate for two years. Mr. Fletcher was here Wednesday and visited Mr. Chamberlain at his residence, No. 17 West Fifth street.

Mr. Chamberlain, however, said his views were based on his knowledge of the situation at Mexico City under Mr. Fletcher's administration as Ambassador. Mr. Chamberlain said he believed Mr. Fletcher's testimony last July before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives did not tally with his reports to the State Department. In this connection he pointed out that the Ambassador was forced to testify at a public hearing, an embarrassing position for a diplomatist. Several of the Ambassador's statements at the hearing were seized upon by supporters of the Carranza government as favorable to them.

"Why did they not give out his letter of resignation with the reasons that impelled him to act?" asked Mr. Chamberlain. "It seems to me the American public is entitled to know why an Ambassador, the

dean in our diplomatic service, should throw away his career just at the apex of his powers without any idea of the future and where he is to engage himself in business. His record at the State Department—I speak advisedly—has no superior. Yet after two years' struggle in Mexico he drops out of the service and nobody is informed why. I believe the people should be told the whole truth of this matter."

"Peace will be remote in Mexico until the United States enforces a definite policy with regard to Mexico. I know Mr. Fletcher told the government this and pleaded vainly for some clearly defined policy. I say this, for I was intimately associated with him during the two years we were in the great war. Unless he could force those people down there to enter into negotiations he would fall as an ambassador, wouldn't he? Well, he did everything he could, and then saw nothing but failure at the end. I am convinced this is back of his quitting his job."

Mr. Fletcher was eighteen years in the diplomatic service. Mr. Chamberlain also was many years in the consular service, and has ended his chosen career also as a result, apparently, of his differing with the Washington official attitude toward Mexico. Mr. Chamberlain recently wrote a novel dealing with conditions in Mexico in which the Washington policy was attacked vigorously. The novel, "Not All the King's Horses," was published a few weeks ago.

DENIES JAPANESE OBTAIN MEXICAN OIL CONCESSIONS

MEXICO CITY, Thursday.—Reports that Japanese interests were securing large grants of petroleum lands on the Pacific coast of Mexico were denied yesterday by Plutarco Elias Calles, former Governor of the State of Sonora and at present Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Labor. Señor Calles declared not a single Japanese had applied to his department for petroleum concessions, but added that if such a request should be received it would be given the same treatment as that accorded applications from other foreigners.

There is no Bolshevism in Sonora, the Secretary asserted. Labor in that State is well organized and has been aided by the government, which has passed labor laws and secured improved working conditions and higher wages. Strikes have not occurred in the recent past in Sonora, he said. Reports that he was anti-American were denied by Señor Calles.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO ALL TELEPHONE USERS

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